

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR  
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT EMERGENCY SUBMISSION**

Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration

OMB Number 1405-0185

DS-260

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

1. *Why is this collection necessary and what are the legal statutes that allow this?*

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq., mandates the application and eligibility requirements for noncitizens seeking to obtain an immigrant visa and alien registration. INA section 221(a) (8 U.S.C. § 1201(a)) provides that a consular officer may issue an immigrant visa to an individual who has made a proper application.

INA section 222(a) (8 U.S.C. § 1202(a)) specifically requires that an applicant provide the following information in an application for an immigrant visa: full and true name; any other names he/she has used or by which he/she has been known; age; sex; date of birth; place of birth; and such additional information necessary to the identification of the applicant and the enforcement of the immigration and nationality laws as may be by regulations prescribed.

INA section 222(b) (8 U.S.C. § 1202(b)) further identifies other documentary evidence needed to obtain an immigrant visa. Every individual applying for an immigrant visa shall furnish to the consular officer, with his/her application, a copy of certification from appropriate police authorities as to what their records show concerning the applicant, prison records, military records, and record of birth, as well as any other documentation that the consular officer may require.

INA section 221(b) (8 U.S.C. § 1201(b)) requires that a photograph accompany the application.

INA section 222(e) (8 U.S.C. § 1202) requires that an applicant sign the application in the presence of the consular officer under oath.

Grounds for the ineligibility of certain individuals to receive a visa or to be admitted to the United States are detailed in INA section 212(a) (8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)), INA section 208(d)(6) (8 U.S.C. § 1158(d)(6)), and other statutes. Among the grounds of ineligibility are those related to the health of the applicant, the applicant's past and present criminal activities, security concerns, potential for the applicant to become a public charge, and previous violations of the INA by the applicant. In the visa application form, applicants are asked to indicate whether any of the various inadmissibility grounds may apply to them.

Department of State regulations pertaining to immigrant visas are published in 22 CFR Part 42. The regulation pertaining to the filing of the online DS-260, Electronic Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration is located at 22 CFR 42.63.

2. *What business purpose is the information gathered going to be used for?*

Department of State consular officers use the DS-260, in conjunction with a personal interview, to elicit information necessary to fulfill the legal requirements for the issuance of an immigrant visa. The information required on the form is necessary for consular officer to determine the eligibility and classification of an individual seeking an immigrant visa to the United States. A consular officer cannot approve such a visa without collecting and reviewing this information.

3. *Is this collection able to be completed electronically (e.g., through a website or application)?*

The DS-260 is an online form available via the Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. Applicants electronically complete, sign, and submit the form to receive a confirmation page containing a record locator (barcode). The applicant must print the confirmation page and present the page to a consular officer at the interview phase.

Electronic submission allows the Department time to review an application prior to the interview appointment. During the interview, a consular officer scans the applicant's barcode to quickly access his or her information and asks any necessary follow up questions to determine visa eligibility before obtaining the applicant's sworn affirmation and biometric signature.

4. *Does this collection duplicate any other collection of information?*

This collection is not duplicative of another existing collection.

5. *Does this collection impact small business?*

This information collection does not burden small businesses or other small entities.

6. *What are consequences if this collection is not done?*

This information collection is essential for determining whether an applicant is eligible for an immigrant visa. An alien completes the form once per visa application. It is not possible to collect the information less frequently, as consular officers need up-to-date information to determine whether an applicant is eligible to receive a visa.

7. *Are there any special collection circumstances?*

No special collection circumstances are associated with this collection.

8. *Did the Department solicit public comments on the collection?*

The Department will publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting public comments for a period of 60 days.

9. *Are payments or gifts given to the respondents?*

No. No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. *Are any assurance of privacy/confidentiality provided to respondents?*

A confidentiality statement is provided to the applicant in the DS-260 as assurance of privacy and confidentiality. The applicant is informed that, in accordance with INA section 222(f), 8 U.S.C. § 1202(f), information obtained from applicants in the immigrant visa application process is considered confidential and is to be used only for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States. The statement further notes that, at the discretion of the Secretary of State, copies of visa records may be made available to a court which certify that the information contained in such records is needed in a case pending before the court.

11. *Are any questions of a sensitive nature asked?*

Some questions on the form may be considered sensitive in nature. Consular officers may not issue a visa to aliens who are ineligible under applicable provisions of INA section 212, 8 U.S.C. § 1182, or any other provision of law (unless a lawful waiver is authorized), and asking these questions is necessary to ensure compliance with the law.

To protect U.S. national security and adjudicate a visa, the application form asks for personal and biographical information, including information concerning the alien's health, marital status, employment, social media, financial support, criminal offenses, narcotics addiction, political affiliation with subversive organizations, and participation in genocide or terrorist activities. The sensitive information collected is essential to the Department and its vetting partners, who need a holistic view of the applicant to ensure no alien who poses a threat to U.S. citizens is allowed on U.S. soil. As noted in paragraph 10 above, such information is confidential under INA section 222(f), 8 U.S.C. § 1202(f).

12. *What is the hour time burden and the hour cost burden on the respondent needed to complete this collection?*

Applicants are required to fill the DS-260 once per application. To calculate hour cost burden, we provide an annual estimate for future submissions. The Department then uses this annual estimate to calculate the total number of hours applicants spend filling the form. The hours are then multiplied by the 2024 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimate for the median hourly wage for all occupations.

**(annual responses) x (response time burden) x (hourly wage) = Hour Cost Burden**

The table below provides data on the total number of IV applications processed by the Department for each of the past 5 fiscal years.

Fiscal year	IV applications
2023	604990
2022	523283
2021	321818
2020	257212
2019	582537
Average	457968

Using this data, the Department anticipates a total annual volume of approximately 460,000 DS-260 responses.

The Department estimates a time burden of 155 minutes per response. If 460,000 respondents spend 155 minutes filling the form, the total response time burden is 71,300,000 minutes, or approximately 1,188,333 hours. The 2024 BLS estimate for the median U.S. hourly wage for all occupations is \$23.80. This hourly wage multiplied by the total time burden gives us an annual cost burden of \$28,282,325.40.

**13. *What is the monetary burden to respondents (out of pocket costs) needed to complete this collection?***

The applicant must submit a digital photo and print a confirmation page, which may result in a minimal cost. The Department estimates that the average cost of obtaining these will be 5 USD, based on estimate values provided by oversea embassies. We therefore estimate that the total respondent monetary cost burden is \$2,300,000 (460,000 applicants x \$5).

**14. *What are the costs incurred by the Federal Government to complete this collection?***

The Department of State's Cost of Service Model (CoSM) estimates the cost value for data intake and review is \$94,022,024. This figure encompasses the time associated with form review, records management, system checks, and all related activities within "Data Intake and Review." The Department conducts an annual review of consular costs using the CoSM and adjusts applicant fees accordingly.

Consular fees are generally set based on the policy of full cost recovery, and the Model is updated annually to account for all costs to the U.S. government associated with providing consular services, which includes immigrant visa application processing. In other words, all

federal government costs associated with this information collection are offset by the required DS-260 application fee, and the net cost incurred will be \$0.

15. Are there any changes/adjustments to this collection since the previous submission?

The Department is submitting the DS-260 with the following revisions:

<b>Form Section</b>	<b>Form Change</b>
<b>Sign in</b>	+ <b>Add NEW</b> Field: Users will read a Privacy Act Statement and check a box that affirms, “I have read the terms of the Privacy Act Notice.”
<b>Personal Information 2</b>	<p>+ <b>Add NEW</b> Question: “Have you owned any other passports within the past fifteen years that have not already been mentioned above?” [Yes/No]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If Yes, “Provide the following information:” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Country / Region of Issuance” [dropdown box –SELECT ONE]</li> <li>○ “Passport Number” [text box; “Do not know”]</li> <li>○ +Add Another/ -Remove</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Present and Previous Address Information: Social Media</b>	<p>+ <b>Modify</b> Social Media description: “Select from the list below each social media platform you have used within the last five years. In the space next to the platforms name, enter the User ID (Email address, Username, Handle, Telephone Number, etc.) you have used on that platform. Please do not provide your passwords. If you have used more than one platform or more than one username, handle, or telephone number on a single platform, click the “add Another” button to list each one separately. If you have not used any of the listed social media platforms in the last five years, select “none.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ +<b>Add NEW</b> dropdown options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BlueSky, Discord, Douyin, GroupMe, IMO, Jodel, Kuaishou, RedNote (Xiaohongshu), QQ, QZone, Skype, Telegram, Threads, TikTok, Truth Social, Twitch, WeChat, Weibo Tencent, Weixin, and WhatsApp.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ +<b>Modify</b> dropdown options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ QQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ now listed independent of Qzone</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ QZone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ previously, “QZone (QQ)”</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ X (Formerly Twitter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ previously, “Twitter”</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Weibo Sina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ previously “Sina Weibo”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ -<b>Eliminate</b> dropdown options:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask.FM, Douban, Google+, Flickr, Twoo, Vine, Youku</li> <li>➤ Social Media identification field to request a “Social Media <b>User ID</b>” instead of a “Social Media Identifier.”</li> </ul>
	<p>+ Other Social Media modification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>+Modify</b> question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ -Current: “Do you wish to provide information about your presence on any other websites or applications you have used within the last five years to create or share content (photos, videos, status updates, etc.)?”</li> <li>○ +Proposed: “Within the last five years, <b>did you have a presence on any social media platforms not available on the dropdown list under the previous question?</b>”</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>+Modify</b> question description: “Please provide the name of the platform and the associated <b>unique social media User ID (Email address, Username, Handle, Telephone Number, etc.)</b> for each social media platform you would like to list. <b>This does not include private messaging on person-to-person messaging services, such as WhatsApp.</b>”</li> <li>➤ <b>+Modify</b> Social Media identification fields to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>“Other Social Media Provider/Platform”</b> and <b>“Other Social Media User ID.”</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Mailing and Permanent Address Information</b>	<p><b>+Modify</b> question to: <b>“Current Mailing Address</b> Is your <b>Current</b> Mailing Address the same as your Present Address?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Currently only says, “Mailing Address.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>+Modify</b> question header to: <b>“U.S. Permanent Address”</b> ➤ <i>Currently only says, “Permanent Address.”</i></p>
<b>Family Information: Spouse and Previous Spouse</b>	<p><b>+ Modify</b> fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replace “Spouse” with <b>“Spouse or Civil/Domestic Partner”</b> anywhere “spouse” currently appears.</li> </ul>
<b>Family Information: Siblings</b>  <b>*NEW section*</b>	<p><b>+Add</b> Question: <b>“Do you have any siblings?”</b> [“Yes” / “No”]</p> <p><b>+Add</b> Fields if “Yes”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>“Number of Siblings:”</b> [Numerical input]</li> <li>➤ Question Description: <b>“Please provide the following information on each of your siblings (this includes all full siblings, half siblings, step siblings, and adopted siblings).”</b></li> <li>➤ Header: <b>“Sibling (#)”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>“Surnames”</b> [text]</li> <li>○ [text]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Date of Birth” [DD-MMM-YYYY / “Do Not Know”]</li> <li>○ “Nationality” [dropdown]</li> </ul>
<b>Work/ Education/ Training: Present</b>	<b>-Eliminate field:</b> “Not Employed” option will no longer populate an “Explain” text box.
<b>Work/ Education/ Training: Previous</b>	<p><b>+Modify</b> previous employment and education requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Currently... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only some applicants are required to provide TEN years of previous work history and all post-secondary educational institutions. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Male applicants ages 14-60</li> <li>▪ All applicants age 14+ who are stateless or from Burma, China, Cuba, India, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria.</li> <li>▪ All retired, not employed, or homemaker applicants</li> <li>▪ Principal E11, E12, E13, E21, E31, E32, EW3, SD1, SR1, SE1, C51, T51, SI1, SQ1, SF1, SG1, SH1, SJ1, SK1, SN1, R51, and I51, DV-1 visa applicants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ All Afghanistan applicants age 14+ provide all employers since 1995.</li> <li>○ All Iraq applicants age 14+ provide all previous employers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Proposed:</b> All applicants over the age of 14 will be required to list all employers from the last fifteen years and all post-secondary educational institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>+ Modify</b> question description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ -Current: “Provide the following information on all of your employers from the last ten years, starting with the most recent employer.”</li> <li>➤ <b>+Proposed:</b> “Provide the following information on all of your employers from the last fifteen years, starting with the most recent employer.”</li> </ul>
<b>Work/ Education/ Training: Additional Work/ Education/Training/Travel Information</b>	<p><b>+ Modify</b> requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Currently... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only certain applicants are required to complete all questions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Males, ages 14-60</li> <li>▪ All applicants 14+ who are stateless or from Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cuba, India, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, or Syria.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Proposed:</b> All applicants will be required to answer all questions in this section.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>+Modify Travel Question:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ -Current: “Have you travelled to any countries/regions within the last five years?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Displayed only to applicants mentioned above.</li> <li>○ If yes, “Provide a List of Countries/Regions Visited:” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Country/Region (dropdown box –SELECT ONE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>+Proposed:</b> “Have you travelled to any countries/regions within the last <b>fifteen</b> years?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Display for all applicants</li> <li>○ If yes: “Provide a List of <b>Cities Visited in each Country/Region Visited:</b>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Country/Region (dropdown box –SELECT ONE)</li> <li>▪ <b>Cities</b> (text box)</li> <li>▪ <b>Date Arrived</b> (DD-MMM-YYYY)</li> <li>▪ <b>Length of Stay</b> (Numerical + dropdown)</li> <li>▪ Person/Entity Who Paid for Trip (dropdown box –self, other person, present employer, employer in the U.S., other company/organization).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Security and Background: Security Information 1</b>	<p><b>+Question Modification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ -Current: “Are you a member or representative of a terrorist organization?”</li> <li>➤ <b>+Proposed:</b> “Are you, <b>or have you ever been</b>, a member or representative of a terrorist organization?”</li> </ul>
<b>Security and Background: Security Information 2</b>	<p><b>+Question Modification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ -Current: “Are you a member of or affiliated with the Communist or other totalitarian party?”</li> <li>➤ <b>+Proposed:</b> “Are you, <b>or have you ever been</b>, a member of or affiliated with the Communist or other totalitarian party?”</li> </ul>
<b>Social Security Number: Social Security Number Information</b>	<p><b>+Add</b> Question when applicants answer “yes” to “Have you ever applied for a social security number?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>“Do you want the Social Security Administration to issue a Social Security number and a card?”</b></li> </ul>
<b>Disclaimer</b>	<p><b>Modify</b> contact information provided in the disclaimer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Currently,</i> Public Communication Division PA/PL U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520 202-647-6575 Also see <a href="http://contact-us.state.gov">http://contact-us.state.gov</a></li> <li>○ <b>Proposed,</b></li> </ul>



	Bureau of Global Public Affairs, Office of Public Liaison GPA/SOE/PL U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520 202-647-6575 <a href="mailto:publicoutreach@state.gov">publicoutreach@state.gov</a> Also see <a href="https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactusform">https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactusform</a>
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Note: highlights denote new language in a question or field.

16. *Will any data gathered by this collection will be published?*

No. The data gathered by this collection will not be published, however, a quantitative summary of all Department of State visa activities is published in the annual Report of the Visa Office. The Report of the Visa Office is an annual report providing statistical information on immigrant and non-immigrant visa issuances by consular offices, as well as information on the use of visa numbers in numerically limited categories. The Visa Office currently has annual reports available from 2000 to 2023. The link to the site is: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics.html>.

17. *Will the OMB expiration date be displayed?*

Yes. The Department will display the OMB expiration date on the collection.

18. *Are any exceptions to the OMB certification statement being sought?*

No. The Department is not seeking exceptions to the OMB certification statement.

**B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection does not employ statistical methods.